

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New): A method for allocating satellite channel used in a satellite communications system transmitting data bi-directionally between a central station and a plurality of remote stations via a satellite in which a plurality of first forward satellite channels used for transmitting data from said remote stations are fixedly previously set, comprising:

allocating a previously set second forward satellite channel, separate from the plurality of first forward satellite channels and also used for transmitting data from said remote stations, and having a larger capacity than that of individual of the plurality of first forward satellite channels, in a case that a predetermined condition related to the data transmission from one of the remote stations is satisfied, to the one of the remote stations satisfying said condition.

Claim 11 (New): A satellite communications system for transmitting data from a central station to a plurality of remote stations through a backward satellite channel and for transmitting data from said plurality of remote stations to said central station through a fixedly predetermined plurality of first forward satellite channels, wherein:

at least one of said remote stations includes means for transmitting a channel request data for use permission to use a second forward satellite channel previously set and separate from said plurality of first forward satellite channels and having a larger capacity than that of

individual of the plurality of first forward satellite channels, the second forward satellite channel to transmit data from the one of said remote stations to said central station; and  
said central channel includes means for allocating said second forward satellite channel for the purpose of data transmission to the one of the remote stations on condition that said second forward satellite channel is unoccupied.

Claim 12 (New): The satellite communications system according to claim 11,  
wherein:

said means for transmitting said channel request data transmits said channel request data to said central station in a case that a request-to-send data larger than a predetermined capacity is generated; and

said second forward satellite channel is a channel for transmitting said data larger than the predetermined capacity.

Claim 13 (New): The satellite communications system according to claim 11,  
wherein:

said plurality of first forward satellite channels correspond to a predetermined first uplink frequency band or to one of plural time slots set within a predetermined frame; and

said second forward satellite channel corresponds to a second uplink frequency band different from said first forward frequency band.

Claim 14 (New): The satellite communications system according to claim 11,  
wherein

said plurality of first forward satellite channels correspond to a predetermined first uplink frequency band or to  $m$  pieces among plural time slots set within a predetermined frame; and

said second forward satellite channel corresponds to  $n$  ( $n > m$ ) pieces of the time slots other than said time slots set within said first uplink frequency band.

Claim 15 (New): A satellite communications system for transmitting data from a central station to a plurality of remote stations through a backward satellite channel and for transmitting data from said plurality of remote stations to said central station through a fixedly predetermined plurality of first forward satellite channels, said central station comprising:

data accumulating means for accumulating respectively in each of said remote stations an amount of data to be transmitted from said respective remote stations during data transmission;

discriminating means for discriminating whether the data accumulated by said data accumulating means exceeds a reference amount of data or not; and

channel allocating means for allocating a second forward satellite channel previously set with a larger capacity than individual of said plurality of first forward satellite channels and separate from said plurality of first forward satellite channels, to said one of the remote stations for data transmission in a case that said accumulated amount of data for said one of the remote stations is discriminated to exceed said reference amount of data by said discriminating means.

Claim 16 (New): The satellite communications system according to claim 15, wherein:

said plurality of first forward satellite channels correspond to a predetermined first uplink frequency band or to plural time slots set within a predetermined frame; and

said second forward satellite channel corresponds to a second uplink frequency band different from said first uplink frequency band.

Claim 17 (New): The satellite communications system according to claim 15, wherein:

said plurality of first forward satellite channels correspond to a predetermined first uplink frequency band or to  $m$  pieces among plural time slots set within a predetermined frame; and

said second forward satellite channel corresponds to  $n$  ( $n > m$ ) pieces of time slots other than said time slots set within said first uplink frequency band.

Claim 18 (New): An earth station for satellite communications transmitting data to a plurality of other earth stations through a backward satellite channel and receiving data transmitted from said plurality of other earth stations through a fixedly predetermined plurality of first forward satellite channels, comprising:

discriminating means for discriminating whether a predetermined condition related to the data transmission from any one of said other earth stations is satisfied or not;

channel allocating means for allocating transmission on a second forward satellite channel previously set and with a larger capacity than that of individual of said plurality of first forward satellite channels, the second forward satellite channel transmitting data to the earth station and being separate from said plurality of first forward satellite channels, for data transmission in a case that said predetermined condition is satisfied by said discriminating means, to the other earth stations satisfying said condition.